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A.—(a) Yes; for faslis 1337 and 1338. The Tahsildar withheld payment under a misapprehension.
(b) No.
(c) About Rs. 5,000.
(d) No.
(e) The question of the payment of the tasdik is being considered by the Collector.

Land Revenue

Reclassification of dry lands converted into wet and garden lands in Malabar.

*179 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the reclassification of dry lands converted into wet and garden lands in Malabar with a view to levy wet and garden assessment on them;

(b) whether the Special Settlement Officer has reported to the Government that lands similarly improved in South Kanara should also be reclassified and whether the Government have passed any orders in regard to this matter;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the conversion of dry land into wet or garden and of single-crop land into double-crop land is made entirely at the ryots' expense on the West Coast; and

(d) whether the Government propose to levy higher assessment on such lands and tax the ryots' improvements?

A.—(a) The Settlement Officer has been instructed to proceed on these lines in preparing his settlement report but a final decision has not yet been arrived at.

(b) The proposals as tentatively approved by the Government for the purpose of enabling the Settlement Officer to prepare his scheme for South Kanara are—

(1) that it is unnecessary to reclassify any existing garden lands, either by raising the present class or by lowering it;
(2) that it is not necessary to reclassify any wet land as garden;
(3) that dry lands converted into wet should be reclassified at the resettlement and that appropriate rates of wet assessment should be imposed on them;
(4) that dry lands which have been converted into garden should be reclassified as garden.

(c) & (d) The settlement notifications issued in 1900 and 1902 for Malabar and South Kanara expressly reserved to the Government the right to introduce at the end of the period of settlement such changes in the classification and assessment of 'wet', 'dry' and 'garden' lands as might then seem proper. The reclassification proposed is based on the same principles as those on which the classification now in force was based, and cannot in the circumstances be held to be in violation of the concession made in favour of ryots' improvements. In

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Malabar, as elsewhere, the assessment has been, and will hereafter be, based on the commuted value of a share of the net produce of the land. The value of that share will obviously vary according to the capacity of the land to produce dry, wet or garden crops.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether Government propose to tax the ryot's improvements in regard to these things ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" No, the Government do not tax the ryot's improvements."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the question of holding over these settlements till a proper revenue law is placed on the statute book is under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he is prepared to take that aspect of the question into consideration ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know why, Sir ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" There is no immediate prospect of having such a law passed."

Mines

Free use of stones from porambokes by ryots.

* 180 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that ryots were allowed the free use of stones, etc., from porambokes for their legitimate domestic purposes ;

(b) whether it is a fact that tahsildars were also issuing orders accordingly ;

(c) whether the concession has been revoked now ; if so, when and under what circumstances ;

(d) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay such orders on the table of the House ;

(e) whether it is a fact that ryots are asked to pay a seigniorage for stones for their legitimate domestic purposes ; and

(f) if the Government have no information, whether they will call for the same ?

A.—(a) Free quarrying by ryots for bona fide domestic or agricultural purposes is allowed in unreserved waste lands including porambokes which are not reserved lands as defined in rule 3 of the rules framed under section 26 of the Forest Act and which are under the control of the Revenue department in all districts except Nellore and the Polavaram and Yellavaram divisions of the East Godavari district. In Nellore free quarrying is not now allowed in porambokes and in the Polavaram and Yellavaram divisions seigniorage fees have been collected under the misapprehension that porambokes do